

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday November 24th, 2024

Silent Key Michael McNamara EI2CL

We regret to report the passing of Michael McNamara EI2CL on the 16th of November 2024. Mike was a longtime member of the IRTS. He joined in late 1965 and was assigned the SWL number EI-206. He was licensed as EI2CL in May 1973. Over the years, Mike took an active part in the society's affairs. He served as a committee member in the 1970s and was instrumental in drawing up the rules of the Worked EI Counties Award in the early 1980s. For many years, he was responsible for collecting and sorting the incoming QSL cards and other correspondence from Box 462.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Joan, his daughter Siobhan, his sons Eoin, Niall, and Cathal in addition to his grandchildren, relatives, and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

News from the IRTS

The latest IRTS Committee meeting took place on Wednesday, November 13th. The meeting was well attended by committee, officers, and club reps. Some items to come out of the meeting are as follows:

Club details: The committee is putting out a renewed call for clubs to update their contact details with the society before the end of November as we are undergoing our insurance renewal process and need to include active clubs. The society website will then be updated to reflect the current data. A renewal form can be found on the download section of the website www.irts.ie/downloads

News call-ins: Following representations made to committee members and with the good conditions we are currently experiencing on the bands, a decision has been taken to amend the call-in sequence to all IRTS news bulletins going forward. The change agreed was to prioritise those stations that are operating mobile or portable from remote locations i.e., away from your home QTH. All other stations will be taken by number rotation, alternating high to low in weekly sequences with no differentiation based on station power.

Youngsters on the Air (YOTA): December is an active month for YOTA, Youngsters on the Air. A full list of participating stations can be found on the website www.events.ham-yota.com The objective is to show the amateur radio hobby to youth and to encourage youngsters to be active on the ham radio waves. Feel free to make a QSO with the youngsters, they are happy to get some attention and exchange information. Licensed and

unlicensed youth will be making QSOs, be aware this could be their first radio contact ever and give them a chance to experience a possible new hobby.

New membership: IRTS membership is on the rise with the addition of 47 new members thanks to the NSWLC and Class Hotel which started recently. Of that seven are YLs and two are under the age of 18. We wish them all the best of luck with their studies. This brings the total new membership this year to 115, a welcome sign that our hobby is thriving. Plans are underway to foster the YL community with now over 27 licenced throughout Ireland, if any ladies would like to get involved, please contact us at [irts_secretary /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_secretary@irts.ie).

The next IRTS Committee meeting: The next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. on the Zoom platform. All affiliated clubs are invited to send a representative. Meeting details can be obtained by contacting the secretary in advance.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

The November meeting of the EI2WRC group will take place tomorrow night Monday, November 25th at 8 p.m. sharp at the South East Technological University. Netlabs Research and Innovation Building, Carriganore, Waterford. Eircode X91 WR86. All club members are asked to please attend. As always anyone that has an interest in amateur radio or communications in general is very welcome to come along. SWLs are in particular very welcome to attend.

This year, the EI2WRC Christmas party night will take place on Saturday, December 7th at 6.30 p.m. at the Marina Hotel, Canada Street, Waterford, Eircode X91 PK2W. Dinner tickets must be prebooked and tickets cost 35 euro per person. For more information or to book a dinner ticket, please get in contact with Edwin EI2HEB at QTHR as soon as possible please.

EI2WRC will be hosting the 92nd IRTS AGM Weekend in The Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Rd, Carlow over the weekend of the 12th and 13th of April 2025. Planning for the event has begun and will continue to gain speed over the coming weeks. For more information, go to searg.ie and click on the IRTS AGM 2025 link. Hotel rooms are being booked at the moment with quite a few taken already, so people who are planning on attending are advised to book their hotel rooms as soon as possible to guarantee having one for the weekend.

For more information about EI2WRC, their activities, and for contact details, please see www.searg.ie

Update from South Dublin Radio Club

This year's South Dublin Radio Club Christmas party will take place on Tuesday the 10th of December 2024 at 8 p.m. The venue will be the "The Morgue" pub, Templeogue Village, Dublin. Members of other clubs and visitors are as usual very welcome to this social event. Limited free food will be available for paid-up members; visitors can choose from the bar menu until 9 p.m. The club will then break for Christmas and return on January 7th, 2025.

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club is happy to report that the club had a very successful Science Week. Various club members provided presentations and practical demonstrations to over 300 primary and secondary school students on different aspects of amateur radio. This activity was conducted at the club station, callsign EI4SAM, at the Shannon Aviation Museum and proved to be very popular.

In mirroring a general trend which has been increasingly noticeable, students showed a particular interest in CW. As outreach to schools and student groups is a critical aspect of the club's mission to promote amateur radio, they have continued to facilitate visits to the station. Over 100 transition year students recently attended and participated actively in relevant activities. Their ongoing programme of investment in equipment for the station has ensured that students can see amateur radio in action in a state-of-the-art facility.

The club reports that their radio rally has been a perennial success and has afforded members, other licensed amateurs, and SWLs alike, an opportunity to meet in a congenial setting. Once again, their rally will take place in 2025, and a date and venue are being finalised now. Despite recent storm damage which has impacted their Hex Beam antenna, their weekly Saturday activation of EI4SAM continues but with fewer frequencies in play. The station is active from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the initial calling frequency of 7.123 MHz, plus or minus QRM. All callers are welcome.

UKEICC 80m CW Contest

The next contest of the UKEICC series of 80m contests takes place next Wednesday the 27th of November 2024 at 20:00 UTC using CW. There will be no UKEICC contests in December, but the series continues in January 2025. The EI5G bonus station will be operated by Tim EI2KA and the G5GEI bonus station will be operated by Mark G4MEM.

Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society Rally

The Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society will be holding its annual rally on the 1st of March 2025 at the Hillsborough Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6AR. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the rally ends at 1 p.m. Further details can be found at www.lvars.uk

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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